

DANIELS DENOUNCED FOR RIOT OF WASTE

'One of Our Foremost Admirals' Draws Amazing Indictment of Former Secretary.

WANTS GENERAL STAFF

Would Save Nation From
Blunders and Protect Navy
From Decadence.

By GRASER SCHORNSTHEIMER.
Special Dispatch to The New York Herald.
New York Herald Bureau,
Washington, D. C., March 11.
It appears that our former Secretary of the Navy, Mr. Daniels, totally disregarded the war plans carefully prepared by the General Board of the Navy Department and proceeded to waste money and to let in his conduct of the late war. Not only this, but Secretary Daniels, it is charged, also deliberately gave false testimony when his actions were being investigated by the Hale committee.

these allegations is to be found in the current "Proceedings" of the United States Naval Institute, in an article written by one of our foremost Admirals. It is known that the General Board of the Navy, anticipating the war, long before the Wilson Administration realized that it was inevitable, carefully worked out the exact moves which should be made by the Navy Department from even before the declaration of hostilities. It is well known that Mr. Daniels considered the business of his department without regard to the advice of this board of experts, provided for that very purpose.

"When Mr. Daniels was asked by the Hale investigating committee for the General Board's plan for the war, he answered, 'Search Me,' says the article in the "Proceedings." After his departure from the department, according to the latest charges, his desk was searched and the plans found, and those who found them believe it is safe to assume that had this plan been followed many things would have been undertaken at once that either never were started or were undertaken some time after we entered the war on paper. At least there would have been less ground for serious criticisms on the administration of the Navy made in the very valuable report of the above mentioned investigating committee.

"A Riot of Shipbuilding."
The General Board recommended the abolition of a number of our navy yards and the building up of several naval bases, where the fleet could dock, repair, refuel and equip, but during the war the yards were expanded and the navy drawn into a riot of shipbuilding. The writer then points out the value of a general staff to the navy and

country as a whole from both the military and economic standpoints. He recommends that this staff in no way replace the General Board, which would retain its present advisory status. A general staff, similar to the one in the army at present, would preclude the possibility of an ignorant and non-sympathetic Secretary running both the material and moral efficiency of the service. And we must remember, he adds, that under the naval treaty efficiency was and that the number of our capital ships is prescribed by the ratio in the treaty, which any general staff is bound to accept. For this last reason there is no possibility of the general staff forcing an orgy of spending and militarism upon the country, but rather it permits a great saving by the use of the knowledge of the experts we have trained.

During the great war, the article continues, the country experienced wasteful expenditures which could have been precluded by the use of the available expert knowledge which it had on hand, but because of the clumsy, bungling of a forgetful naval secretary, the service, and the nation as well, must pay. At present the power of the Secretary of the Navy is almost absolute within the department. The Chief of Operations, the highest and most powerful naval officer, is merely a figurehead and the General Board of the Navy, composed of experts in every branch, is merely an advisory body shrouded with secrecy.

Plea for Expert Administrators.
Of course the public cannot be so acquainted with the war plans of this nation. But it should be acquainted with the needs of the service as determined by expert knowledge and practical ex-

perience, rather than by the guess work of a few civilian politicians. A very good example of just this is in the present situation. The navy, as limited by the naval treaty, must have at least 125,000 men immediately. The Secretary and the Chief of Operations are, because of political pressure and to avoid a more drastic reduction, actually recommending only 60,000 men. What has the General Board to say? What is their estimate based on expert knowledge of the situation? I venture to say that they would recommend nearer 140,000 than 80,000 men.

With only 80,000 men the rate of deterioration in our navy will be very high, and with this deterioration comes the necessity of replacement and the great expenditures involved. The navy is asking economy, not waste.

There is but one answer. Give us a general staff and the centralization of

naval authority. Efficiency wins now, let the Secretary of the Navy be the figurehead to issue the orders directed by the general staff and the channel through which all connection with Congress is established. There is little need for secrecy with the naval treaty in force, and, therefore, why should the American public be misled in regard to what their first line of defense, their navy, needs?

This is but one step in the reorganization of the Navy Department to meet the needs of the situation to be developed by the naval treaty. The sterling example of Daniels should be enough for any sane citizen. Such efficiency must be done away with if we are to have economy in the Navy Department. Under the present system almost any politician or civilian Secretary can do anything and get away with it in the face of the most serious technical and expert advice.

LIVING IN U. S. NOW CHEAPEST IN WORLD

Federal Reserve Board Has Reports on Necessities From All Countries.

Special Dispatch to The New York Herald.
New York Herald Bureau,
Washington, D. C., March 11.
The United States is the cheapest country in the world in which to live, it is shown in price reports from all

parts of the globe received by the Federal Reserve Board.
Necessities—food, shelter and clothing—are nearer to pre-war levels in this country than in any other country, the reports show. Taxes are lowest, in comparison with the size of the population, and wages, despite wholesale readjustments, are highest. American families have a larger average income and need to spend less in proportion to maintain life than the average family of any other country.
Business men and bankers of the United States who universally demanded and put into effect economic readjustment and deflation are given credit for the advantages of the United States over other countries.
The general level of retail prices of necessities in the United States is approximately 50 per cent. higher than in new war period, the official reports show.

In France it cost 219 per cent. more to live during January than during 1914, according to the reports. In England retail prices of principal commodities showed an increase of 92 per cent. over the pre-war year. Swedish retail prices were reported as 90 per cent. higher, while in Berlin the comparison showed an increase of 1,000 per cent. during December. In January the cost of living was 25 per cent. higher than in December.
In other parts of the world similarly large increases in prices over 1913 are recorded.
Readjustment to normal conditions has proceeded more swiftly and with less economic suffering in this country than in any other section of the globe, it is explained.
At the same time economic depression is passing more quickly here than elsewhere.

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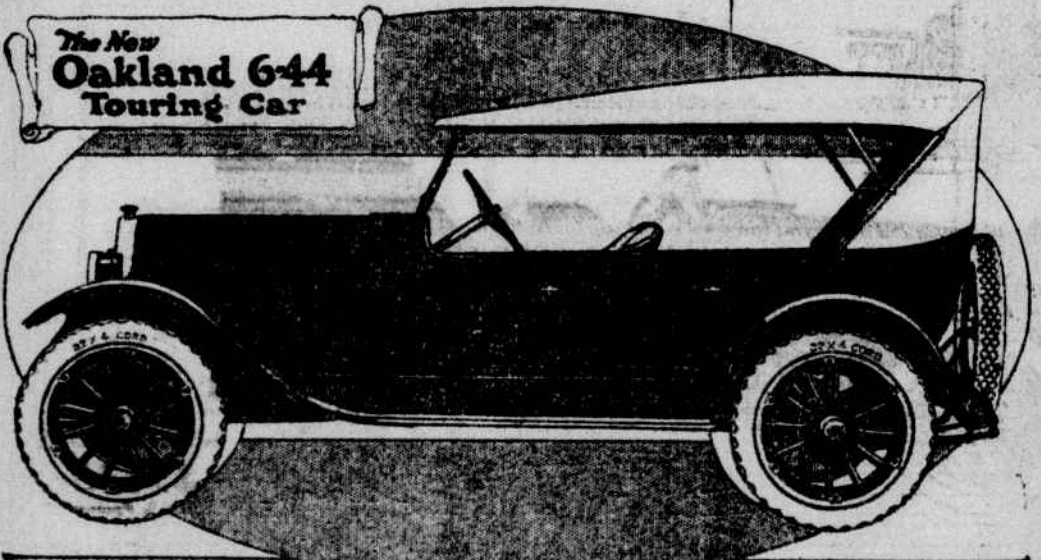
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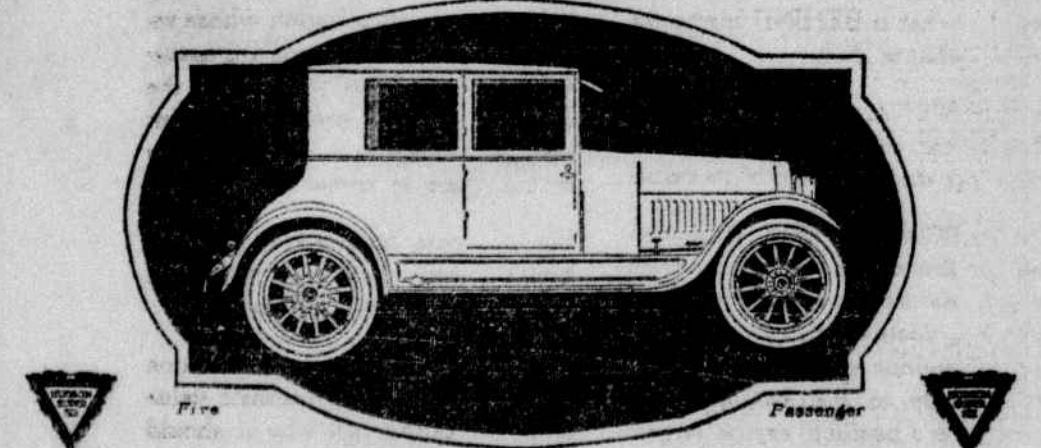


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